

***The Indiana Capitol Tour Office presents***

# Up to the Minute History..... At the State House



**The Indiana Capitol Tour Office  
offers tours of the building that are  
designed for all ages and interests. We host  
special events such as Indiana Statehood Day, State  
Holiday Tree Trim, Black History Month and  
Women's History Month.  
More information about tours and programs can be  
found in the following pages!!!**



The Capitol Tour Office Staff poses for a picture with Dexter Powell, at right, the butler at the Governor's Residence on North Meridian.

The Capitol Tour Office Staff visited the Governor's Residence during a recent training day. In the front row at far right in the photo is Dexter Powell, who has served as butler at the beautiful home for many years. He is also an enthusiastic and informative tour guide who shared with the staff the lovely features of the home as well as its interesting history. The English Tudor Home, located at 4750 N. Meridian, has served as Governor's Residence since 1973. Built in the 1920s, it has been expanded to accommodate public meetings and receptions. Tours of the residence are available each Tuesday by reservation.

# NOTES ON GOVERNORS

James Brown Ray, the fourth governor of Indiana, was the first chief executive to serve in the new capital city of Indianapolis. A governor's residence had been built in the middle of the "Circle." Governor Ray's wife, Esther, refused to move into the home, stating that she did not want the public inspecting her washing on the line every Monday morning.

No governor ever lived in the home on the Circle. The Rays moved into a house located on the site of the present Marion County Jail. Interestingly, that old home still exists. It has been moved twice, and now stands at 302 Park Avenue in the Lockerbie Square District. It is considered one of the oldest homes in Indianapolis.

James Brown Ray was lieutenant governor when Governor William Hendricks resigned to take a seat in the U. S. senate. Ray served out the remainder of that term and then won two terms for himself, thus becoming the only Indiana governor to serve over two terms. Ray was a visionary who saw the coming importance of railroads. He developed plans for canals and roads. He also had a flair for the dramatic, as evidenced in this excerpt from "Stories of Indiana" written in 1898 by Maurice Thompson.



Governor's Residence on the circle

"It was in 1825. Three white men had been condemned to death by hanging for the crime of killing some inoffensive Indians. The execution was to be at Pendleton. The prisoners were a father and son and the father's brother-in-law. The son, a mere youth, had aroused the sympathy of the people, and an appeal to Governor Ray for clemency had been signed by a great many. On the day set for the execution the two older men were hanged, while the boy sat by on his coffin, awaiting his turn at the rope's end. A vast crowd was present to witness the terrible stroke of justice. The murder had been a most revolting one, in which men, women, and children had shared alike. But when the poor, trembling boy stood upon the scaffold, wildly and pathetically gazing around, everybody felt sorry for him, and hoped that Governor Ray would pardon him. Time passed, yet no word came from the executive, and the drop was about ready, when a shout went up from the multitude. Then all eyes saw Governor J. Brown Ray galloping majestically along in the direction of the gallows. He was mounted upon a superb horse splendidly caparisoned, and was himself dressed in the finest attire. His face wore a look of supreme self-importance. While the crowd gazed, he rode majestically to where the half-crazed young culprit stood, sprang from his saddle, and mounted the scaffold.

"Young man," he said in a loud voice, "do you know who now stands before you?"

"No, sir," answered the trembling boy.

"Well, sir, it is time that you should know," continued the governor, drawing himself up stiffly. "There are, sir, but two beings in the great universe who can save you from death; one is the God of Heaven and the other is Governor James Brown Ray, Governor of Indiana, who now stands before you. Here is your pardon. Go, sir, and sin no more."



**James Brown Ray**  
**Governor of Indiana**  
**February 12, 1825 - December 7, 1831**



Artist: Jacob Cox, American, 1810-1892  
oil on canvas, 36 1/8 x 29 1/8 (91.7 x 74)  
Unsigned

**AFTER LEAVING THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, RAY RESUMED HIS LAW PRACTICE, LOST A BID FOR CONGRESS AND HAD MIXED SUCCESS IN SEVERAL BUSINESS VENTURES. HE BECAME ILL IN 1848 AND WAS TAKEN TO A RELATIVE'S HOME IN CINCINNATI WHERE HE DIED OF CHOLERA AT THE AGE OF 54. HIS GRAVE IS AT SPRING GROVE CEMETERY IN CINCINNATI.**

## TWO NEW BUSTS ON DISPLAY AT THE STATE HOUSE



### James Hinton

Elected to the Indiana House of Representatives as its first black legislator in 1881.



### Julia Carson

State and Federal Legislator who represented Indiana from 1973 until 1996.

## INDIANA QUICK QUIZ

1. Fairmount was the hometown of what young movie star of the 1950s?
2. Which Indianapolis high School was attended by David Letterman?
3. In what Indiana city will you see a tree growing out of the county courthouse?

Challenger: Elmo Lincoln of Rochester was the first actor to play what classic movie role?

Check the next page for answers!!!





## Indiana Statehood Day 2014



The next Indiana Statehood Day Celebration will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at the State Capitol. To bring your 4<sup>th</sup> graders to the day-long program (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), contact Jennifer Hodge at the tour office at 317-233-9830 or [jhodge@idoa.in.gov](mailto:jhodge@idoa.in.gov). *Reservations are first come, first serve.*

The essay contest is open to all 4<sup>th</sup> graders. This year's topic will be " **Hoosier Bicentennial Moments**". More details about the contest will be available on the Tour Office website at <http://www.in.gov/idoa/2919.htm> in August.

## Answers to the Indiana Quick Quiz

1. James Dean
  2. Broad Ripple High School
  3. Greensburg
- Challenger: Tarzan of the Apes

# HOOSIER HEROINES ESSAY CONTEST

First Lady Karen Pence was joined by Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, Secretary of State Connie Lawson, Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz and Auditor Suzanne Crouch, in inviting students grades 6-9



to participate in an essay contest telling who their Hoosier Heroine is and why. This was an event to celebrate Women's History Month in March. One winner from each participating grade level (grades 6-9) was selected.

Winning essays were chosen by the following offices:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade — Lt. Governor

7<sup>th</sup> Grade — Secretary of State

8<sup>th</sup> Grade — Auditor

9<sup>th</sup> Grade — Superintendent of Public Instruction



## *Toni Ashley - Compassionate and Courageous*

By Elizabeth Cooper - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## *First Lady Karen Pence*

By Diamond Miller - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## *A Girl Who Will Fly*

By Lizzy Frazier - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## *An Unnoticed Heroine*

By Emily Jones - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

The essay winners awards program was held at the Indiana Statehouse March 26, 2014.

Watch the ceremony: <http://www.webinar.in.gov/p6693x4unt8/>.

**Watch the Tour Office website: <http://www.in.gov/idoa/2920.htm>  
for more information about the 2015 contest!!!**

# **Tours of the State House**

The Capitol Tour Office offers a variety of tours. Our normal classroom tour lasts 90 minutes, discusses all three branches of government, the history of the state and the history of the building. We invite the Legislators who represent the school to speak during the tour if they are available. We will visit the House of Representatives, the Senate, Supreme Court and an Executive office when they are not in use.

We can make adjustments in time and content if our schedule allows. Tours are offered on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and abbreviated tours are given on Saturdays at 10:15, 11:00, 12:00 and 1:00. Groups are limited to a total of 120 people at a time.

To schedule a tour call 317-233-5293 or email us at:  
touroffice@idoa.in.gov.

***For more information visit our website***

***<http://www.in.gov/idoa/2371.htm>***

**Thanks to the contributors to this newsletter**

**Jim Johnson, Jennifer Hodge and the Tour Office staff**

If you would like to be removed from our list of recipients, just send us a quick email and we will do so right away !